

NOTE

Species Numbers of Cecidomyiidae (Diptera) by Zoogeographical Region

Since *A Catalog of the Cecidomyiidae of the World* (Gagné 2004) appeared I have been asked several times to provide the number of species that occur in each of the larger zoogeographic regions. This information should have been given in the catalog, so it is belatedly provided in the following table, additionally divided by subfamily.

Fossil species were not counted for the table and some species occur in more than one region, with the result that the totals in the bottom line here add up to more than the 5,451 species listed in the catalog. For example, the Nearctic and Palearctic Regions share 53 Lestremiinae, 12 Porricondylinae, and 46 Cecidomyiinae.

The comparative disparity in numbers of species among the regions reflects taxonomic opportunity, effort, and interest, rather than the actual numbers that must occur. Gall midges all over the world, least so in Europe, are generally

poorly known. I once wondered how that great unknown could be grasped more quickly, but I see now that nothing can replace careful and contextual study. In fact, a great part of the fauna that is already named was insufficiently described and requires revision before any meaning can be drawn from it. We should learn from past work that there are no shortcuts.

LITERATURE CITED

Gagné, R. J. 2004. A catalog of the Cecidomyiidae (Diptera) of the world. *Memoirs of the Entomological Society of Washington* No. 25, 408 pp.

Raymond J. Gagné, *Systematic Entomology Laboratory, PSI, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, clo National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, NHB 168, P.O. Box 37012, Washington, DC 20013-7012, U.S.A. (e-mail: raymond.gagne@ars.usda.gov)*

	Nearc.	Neotr.	Palearc.	Afrotr.	Orient.	Austral.	Oceanian
Catotrichinae	2		3			1	
Lestremiinae	90	7	417	3	66	15	8
Porricondylinae	94	9	418	15	50	10	1
Cecidomyiinae	983	517	2219	147	219	221	23
Totals	1169	533	3057	165	335	247	32